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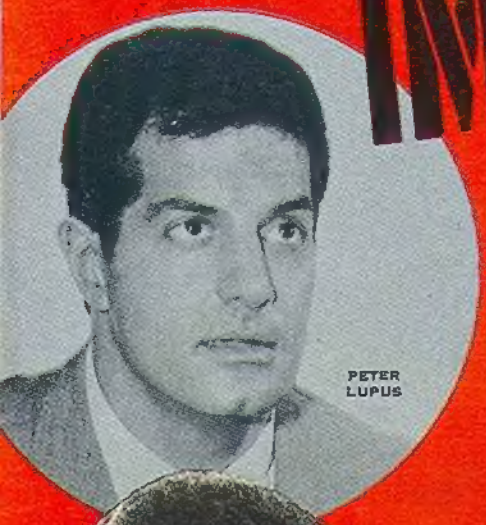

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ROBERT BIONER

TARGET IN THE SEA!

IN THE SECRET PROJECTION ROOM AT **MISSION IMPOSSIBLE FORCES,** BRIGGS LOOKS AT A FILM STRIP THAT WILL OFFER HIM A CHANCE TO PERFORM A DARING, YET VITAL MISSION...

OUR RADIO-CONTROLLED RECONN PLANE WAS FLYING OVER THE RED-HELD CARIBBEAN ISLAND LAST WEEK ON A ROUTINE PHOTO RECORDING MISSION! BUT AS WORD REACHED INTELLIGENCE THAT NAVAL MANEUVERS WERE BEING HELD OFF THE ISLAND'S NORTHEAST COAST, THE PLANE WAS DIVERTED--

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...TO PHOTOGRAPH THE MANEUVERS, HOPING TO LEARN WHETHER NUCLEAR MISSILE SUBS WERE BEING STATIONED AT THE ISLAND!

THE PLANE'S RADIO WAS JAMMED! WE LOST CONTACT AND CONTROL! IT IS PRESUMED TO HAVE CRASHED INTO THE SEA AND ACCORDING TO ELECTRONIC COMPUTATION, AT THIS POSITION-- ***TWENTY MILES FROM THE RED-HELD ISLAND!***

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WE WANT THE RECONN PLANE LOCATED, ITS CAMERA SALVAGED AND THE WRECK DESTROYED SO IT CAN'T FALL INTO THE HANDS OF UNFRIENDLY POWERS!
THE MISSION IS DEEMED IMPOSSIBLE BECAUSE OF THE TIGHT SECURITY AROUND THE SPLASHDOWN AREA, AS INDICATED ON THE PHOTO.
THIS SNAPSHOT WAS TAKEN BY A "FISHERMAN"! IT GOT THROUGH TO US BUT COST THE AGENT HIS LIFE! THOSE DESTROYERS ARE PATROLLING THE AREA, WAITING FOR US TO TRY REACHING THE WRECK! THEY ARE SEARCHING FOR THE DOWNED PLANE AS WELL!
OUR ONLY LEAD IS WE KNOW BY RADIO-DIRECTION THE ALMOST PRECISE SPOT OF THE WRECKAGE--THEY DON'T--AS YET! WILL YOU ACCEPT ?
IF I CAN GET THE TEAM I NEED-- YES!
THEN, BRIGGS TAKES THE SECRET TAPE AND AS HE PASSES A VAT OF ACID...
I'LL ALERT BARNEY, BUT WITHOUT THE TWO TEAM MEMBERS I HAVE IN MIND, WE HAVEN'T A PRAYER--AND WITH THEM -- WELL, LET'S SEE!
SSSSS!

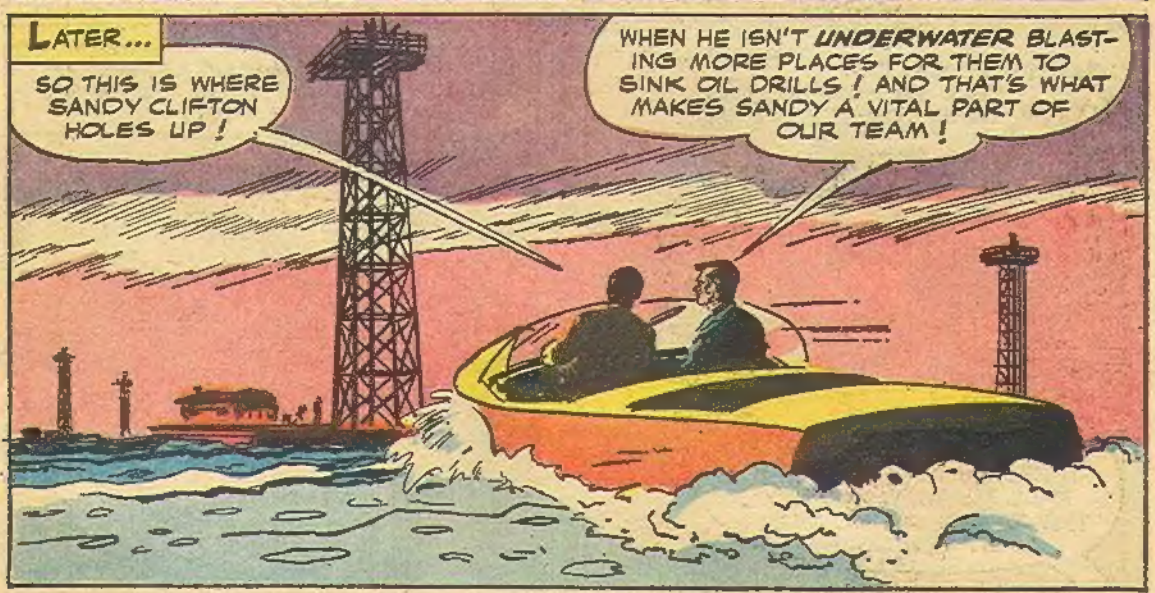
LATER...
I STUDIED THE MAP AND MY NOTES OF WHAT YOU SAID--THIS IS A ROUGH JOB!
LET'S SEE IF WE CAN GET THE HELP WE NEED!
WHERE CAN WE FIND DINA DWIGHT?
DINA? SHE FINISHED TEACHING HER CLASS IN SKYDIVING AN HOUR AGO--
I THINK SHE WENT FOR ANOTHER DIVE! THAT COULD BE HER UP THERE!
THANKS!
I SEE A DOT FALLING! WHY DOESN'T SHE OPEN THE CHUTE?
TOO CLOSE--MUCH TOO CLOSE FOR DINA!
SHE ENJOYS FLIPPING AROUND UP THERE, BARNEY, IN FREE FALL! SHE WON'T PULL THE RIPCORD TILL THE LAST SECOND--
I'VE GOT A FEELING SHE WENT PAST THAT LAST SECOND JUST NOW!

PLOFFFP!

DINA, THESE GENTS WANT TO SEE YOU!

BRIGGS! WHAT A DELIGHTFUL SURPRISE!
ANY CLOSER, DINA, AND YOU'D HAVE LANDED ON US!

ON THE FIELD, OUT OF HEARING, BRIGGS EXPLAINS THE IMPOSSIBLE MISSION AND BRIEFS HER ON HER PART...
A DELIGHTFUL CHALLENGE AND I LOVE THE PART I'M TO PLAY! COUNT ME IN!
I WAS SURE YOU'D SAY THAT! THAT MEANS WE'VE ONLY ONE MORE TEAM MEMBER TO RECRUIT!


LATER...
SO THIS IS WHERE SANDY CLIFTON HOLES UP!
WHEN HE ISN'T UNDERWATER BLASTING MORE PLACES FOR THEM TO SINK OIL DRILLS! AND THAT'S WHAT MAKES SANDY A VITAL PART OF OUR TEAM!

BRIGGS! WHAT ARE YOU HERE FOR? NEED A CHANGE OF OIL IN YOUR CAR?
NO, SANDY, TO OFFER YOU AN EXCITING CHANGE OF SCENE!
THE TEAM PICKED, THEY QUICKLY MOVE INTO ACTION! NEXT DAY, ABOARD A STORM-TOSSED COAST GUARD SHIP...
ANY SIGN OF OUR BOY?
NO...RADAR IS NEGATIVE! THOSE WAVES ARE GIVING HIM THE COVER HE HOPED THEY'D PROVIDE!
THIS SWELL SHOULD TEST OUT OUR PLAN! IF MY THEORY IS RIGHT, WE HAVE A CHANCE--AS LONG AS NO ONE GETS SEA SICK EASILY!
AHOY! IF YOU CAN PULL ME ABOARD NOW--DO IT!
BUT AS THEY MANEUVER CLOSER, A SUDDEN WAVE VICIOUSLY STRIKES AND SWAMPS THE RAFT...
LOOK! HE'S GOING OVER!

STAND BY FOR A LINE!
JUST GET IT CLOSE!
HAVE IT!
HAUL HIM IN!
WELL--
YOU WERE RIGHT! IF WE CAN HIT THE AREA DURING A HIGH SEA, THEIR RADAR WON'T PICK UP OUR CRAFT!
NEXT AFTERNOON...
WE'RE IN LUCK! A STORM IS BLANKETING THE AREA BY THE WRECK! WE CAN GO IN NOW!
A FEW HOURS LATER, DELIBERATELY STAYING ON THE ROUTE OF A COMMERCIAL AIRLINE, WHOSE FLIGHT HAS BEEN SECRETLY CANCELLED, THE MISSION IMPOSSIBLE FORCES TEAM FLIES OVER THEIR TARGET ZONE...
BRIGGS, IS THAT WHAT WE'RE GOING TO SKY DIVE THROUGH?
YES, SANDY! BUT THAT SURE GIVES US AN ELEMENT OF SURPRISE -- WHO WOULD IMAGINE ANYONE IS CRAZY ENOUGH TO TRY THIS!

THIS JUST CAME IN FOR YOU, BRIGGS!
DON'T TELL ME THEY'RE GOING TO SCRUB THE MISSION NOW WE'VE FINALLY REACHED THE JUMP ZONE!
WELL?
NO--JUST THE LATEST INTELLIGENCE! THE ISLAND'S DESTROYER FLEET IS PATROLLING WITHIN FIVE MILES OF OUR TARGET! COULD GET COZY!
TAKE YOUR JUMP POSITIONS!
DINA DIVES FIRST! FOLLOW HER AND DON'T YANK YOUR RIPCORD TILL SHE DOES--THAT'S WHAT SHE'S HERE FOR!
DON'T PANIC AND FOLLOW ME! GO!
ABOVE THE OMINOUS CLOUDS FOUR FIGURES HURTLE DOWN TOWARD THE THREATENING STORM BELOW...
YOU CAN HEAR THE THUNDER UNDER US NOW!
AND MY MOTHER ALWAYS TOLD ME TO COME IN OUT OF A STORM!

ON DOWN THEY PLUNGE THROUGH THE TURBULENT AIR AND THE LIGHTNING FLASHES...
WHOOM!
STILL A LONG WAY TO GO BEFORE WE CAN OPEN CHUTES WITHOUT THE RISK OF BEING SEEN IF ANY DESTROYERS ARE BOBBING AROUND BELOW!
AND AS THE SWELLING SEA SURGES INTO SIGHT...
NOW!
AT LAST! ALMOST THOUGHT SHE WAS GOING TO MAKE THIS DIVE WITHOUT A CHUTE!
SPLAASH!
SANDY, GET THE RAFT OPEN AND INFLATED--
FAST!

I'M GETTING HER UNPACKED AS FAST AS I CAN! THIS IS SOME SEA!
OPENING THE INFLATING GAS CYLINDER, SANDY QUICKLY HAS THE RAFT FLOATING...
CLIMB ON!
SO THIS IS THE SUNNY CARIBBEAN?
I'LL DO MY VACATIONING AT HOME, THANK YOU!
OUT OF EACH PACK, THE VITALLY NEEDED GEAR IS TAKEN, AS THE UNDERSEA EXPERT BENDS OVER A MINI-SONAR SET...
GETTING BOTTOM READINGS--
AS THE RAFT IS PADDLED SLOWLY ABOUT...
PUT OUT THE SEA ANCHOR! SOMETHING'S DOWN BELOW US ON THE SEA FLOOR! LET'S DIVE AND CHECK!

AS DINA RIGS THE SEA ANCHOR, THE OTHERS SUIT UP AND SLIP OVER...
I'LL FEEL PRETTY USELESS HERE JUST KEEPING HOUSE! GOOD LUCK!
BOTTOM REGISTERS ONLY EIGHTY FEET-- AT LEAST IT ISN'T TOO DEEP A DIVE!
UNDERWATER TORCHES ARE LIT AND THEY FLIP DEEPER...
MUST BE IMAGINING IT-- BUT IT LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING BELOW US IS GLOWING!
DIVERS! THAT EXPLAINS WHY THE REDS' DESTROYERS ARE NOSING AROUND HERE-- THEY'VE FOUND THE WRECK!

OUR BEST HOPE IS SURPRISE! WE'VE GOT TO MOVE FAST!
QUICKLY, THEIR TORCHES ARE PUT OUT AND THREE DETERMINED SWIMMERS STREAK DOWN...
THIS GUY DOESN'T KNOW WHAT OR WHO HIT HIM!
THERE! MAYBE HE'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE IT TOPSIDE-- MAYBE NOT!
TROUBLE! BARNEY NEEDS HELP!

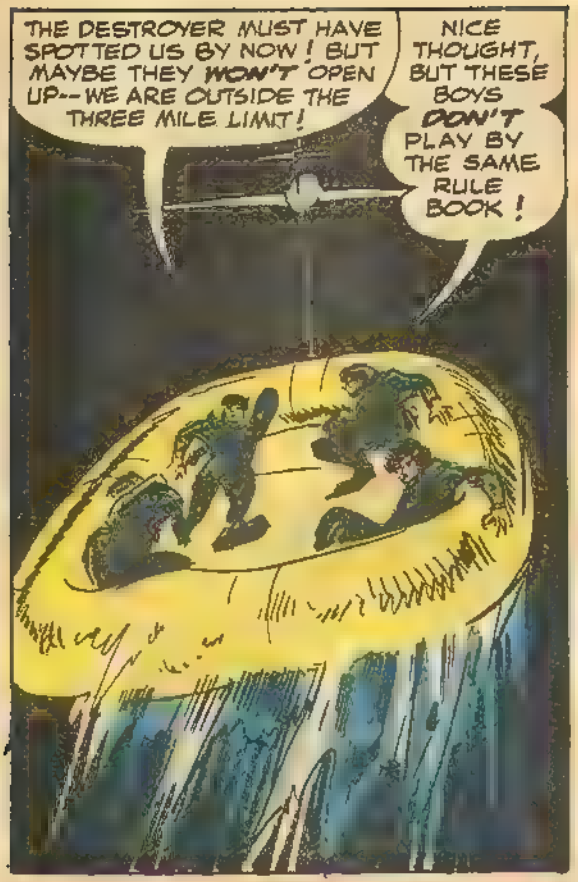
THAT SHOULD KEEP HIM TOO BUSY TO BOTHER BARNEY!
THIS IS THE LAST ONE!
THERE GOES THE OPPOSITION, BUT THEY MAY HAVE REPLACE-MENTS COMING! WE'LL HAVE TO WORK FAST!
THAT'S OUR MISSING BABY, ALL RIGHT! NOW TO FIND CAMERA BOX AND WIRE THE WRECK SO WE CAN BLOW HER APART!
MEANWHILE...
OH-OH! A DESTROYER AND SHE'S HEADING THIS WAY!

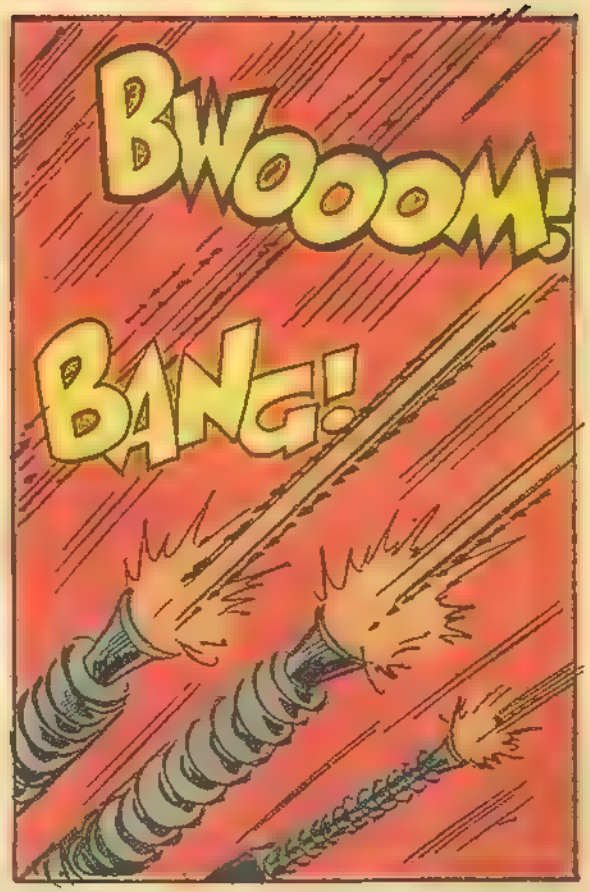
CAREFULLY, THE THREE MEN EXAMINE THE PLANE WRECKAGE ...
THE CAMERA SHOULD BE HERE--UNLESS THEY ALREADY FOUND IT!
HERE! FUNNY, I FEEL LIKE I FOUND A CHEST OF GOLD DOUBLOONS IN SOME OLD PIRATE WRECK!
NOW TO WIRE HER FOR BLOWING!
MINUTES LATER ...
DINA!
COMING! THANK GOODNESS YOU FINALLY CAME UP!
THERE'S A DESTROYER PATROLLING--
I SEE HER! THAT LIGHT'S GOING TO HIT US!

LET'S SEE HOW FAST I CAN PUT THIS TOMMYGUN TOGETHER!
SEA SCAVENGER TO PELICAN-- STANDING BY FOR PICK UP! IN DANGER! COME IN FAST!
BRIGGS, IF YOU'VE GOT THAT PEA-SHOOTER ASSEMBLED--USE IT!
TAT-TAT-TATT!
IF I FIRE ENOUGH SLUGS, ONE IS BOUND TO FIND ITS MARK!
THWACK!
OFF THE PORT BOW-- FIRE!
WHOOM!

POOOM!
IF THEY TURN ON ANOTHER LIGHT, THEIR NEXT SHOT WILL BE A LOT CLOSER!
HURRY! HELP ME SET UP THE PICK-UP RIG!
IT'LL TAKE A STEADY HAND TO HIT THE MARK IN THIS SEA!
SANDY, WE NEED A DIVERSION! LET THE WRECK BLOW!
HERE SHE GOES!
WHOOM
ON THE DESTROYER, ALL HEADS TURN TOWARD THE EXPLOSIVE NOISE...
BWOOM!

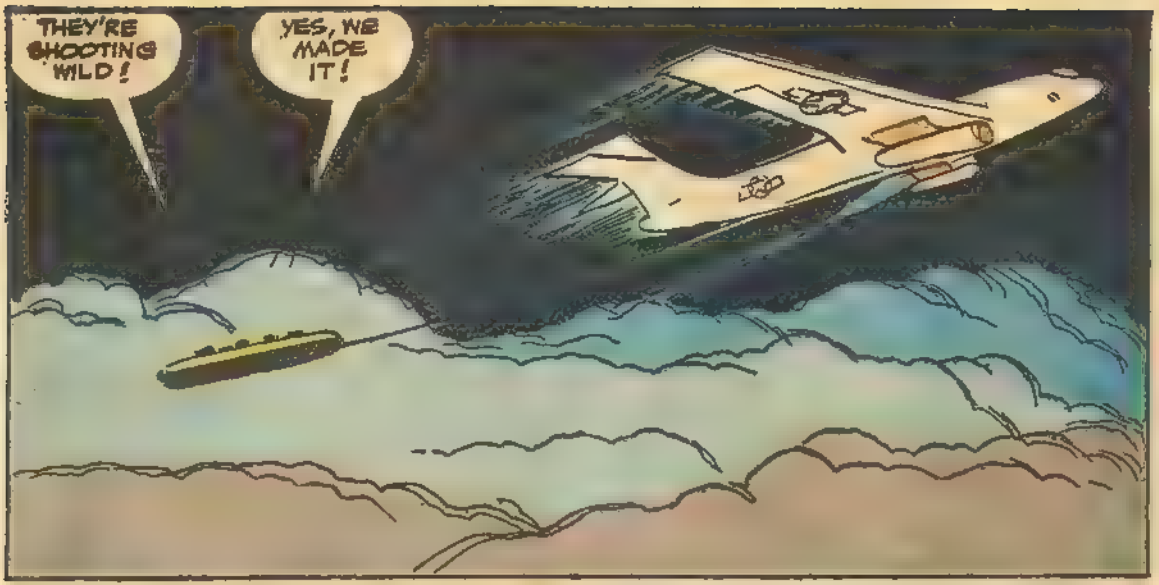
HOMING IN ON DINA'S AUTOMATIC RADIO SIGNAL, THE SPECIAL PICK-UP PLANE FLIES AT 20 FEET TO AVOID BEING SEEN..
SHE'S COMING! STRAP IN AND HANG ON!
JUST HOPE THAT EXPLOSION DIVERTED THE DESTROYER CREW LONG ENOUGH FOR THE PLANE TO GET BY!
HE DID IT!
HERE'S WHERE THE RIDE GETS WILD! WE'RE GOING TO START RISING!!
AND AS A KID, I SHIED AWAY FROM THE ROLLER COASTER!
THERE!
ALL GUNS-- FIRE!

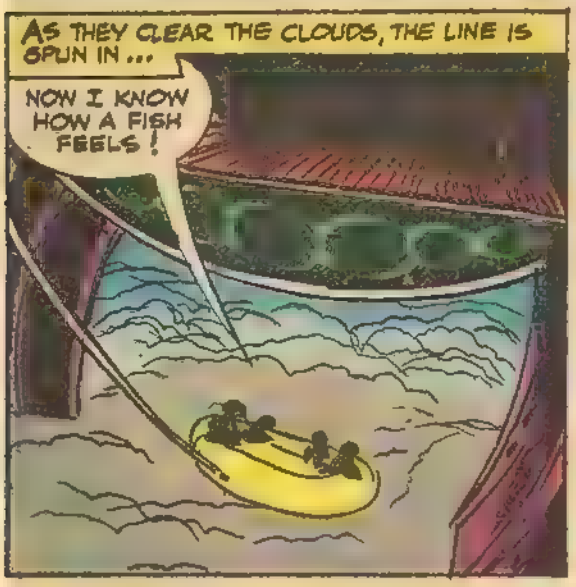

THE DESTROYER MUST HAVE SPOTTED US BY NOW! BUT MAYBE THEY WON'T OPEN UP--WE ARE OUTSIDE THE THREE MILE LIMIT!
NICE THOUGHT, BUT THESE BOYS DON'T PLAY BY THE SAME RULE BOOK!

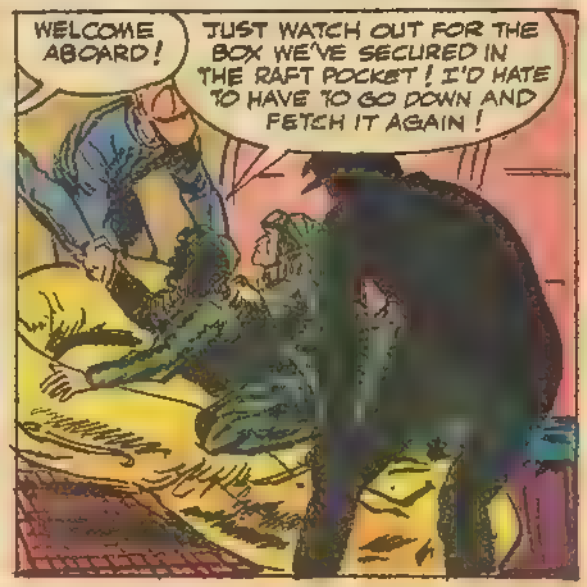

BWOOOM!
BANG!

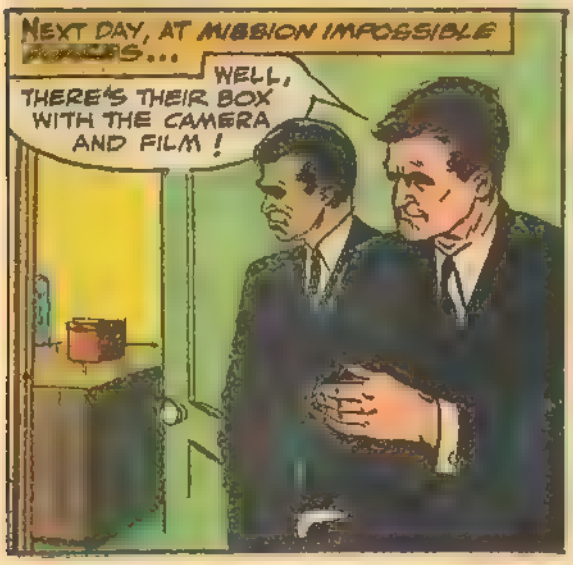
ZING! PING!
THEY HAVE THE RANGE!

THE PILOT'S CUTTING FOR THE CLOUDS! IF WE MAKE THEM, WE HAVE A CHANCE--
THAT'S A PRETTY BIG IF!

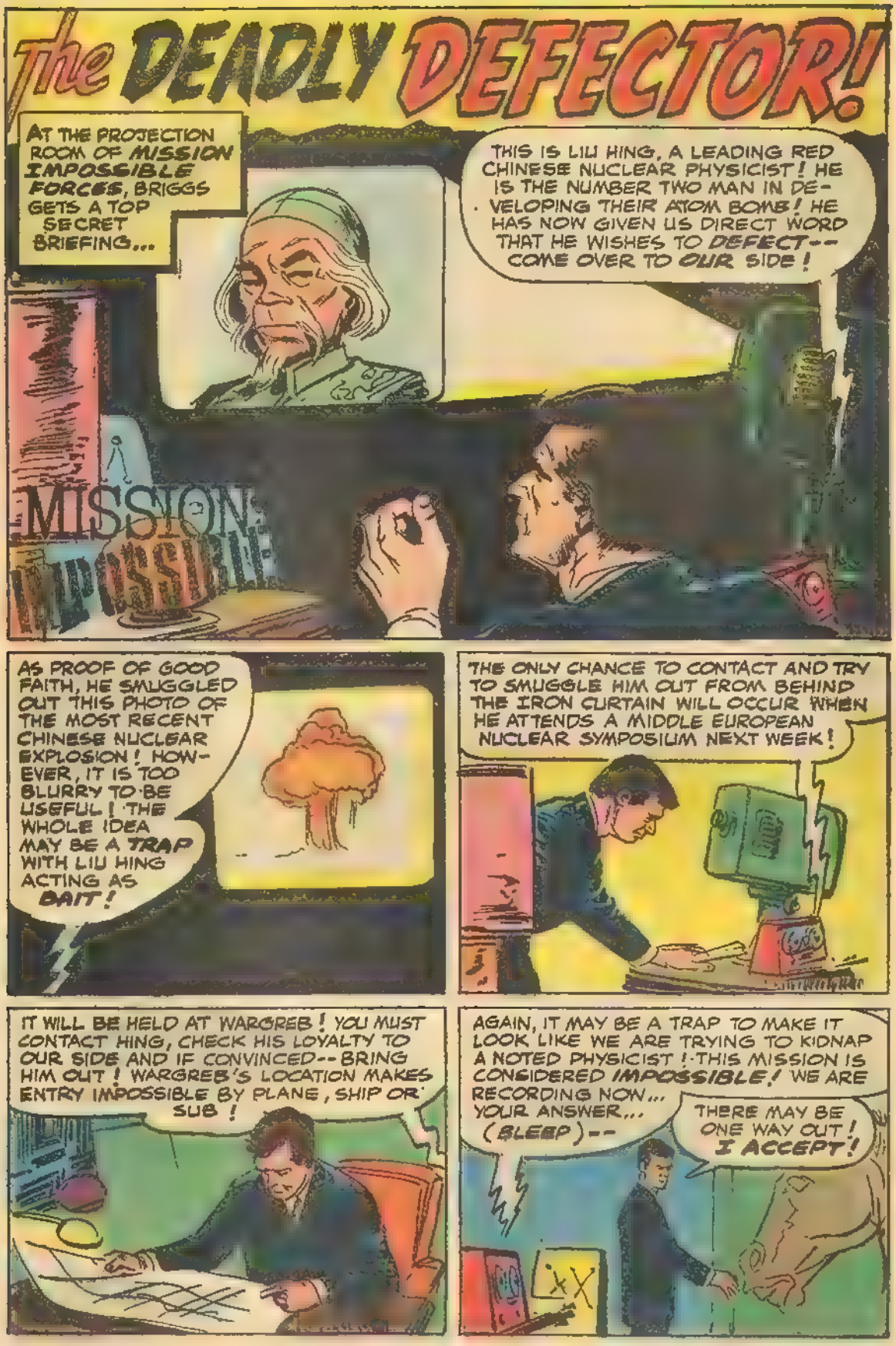

THEY'RE SHOOTING WILD!
YES, WE MADE IT!


AS THEY CLEAR THE CLOUDS, THE LINE IS SPUN IN...
NOW I KNOW HOW A FISH FEELS!


WELCOME ABOARD!
JUST WATCH OUT FOR THE BOX WE'VE SECURED IN THE RAFT POCKET! I'D HATE TO HAVE TO GO DOWN AND FETCH IT AGAIN!


NEXT DAY, AT MISSION IMPOSSIBLE HQ...
WELL, THERE'S THEIR BOX WITH THE CAMERA AND FILM!

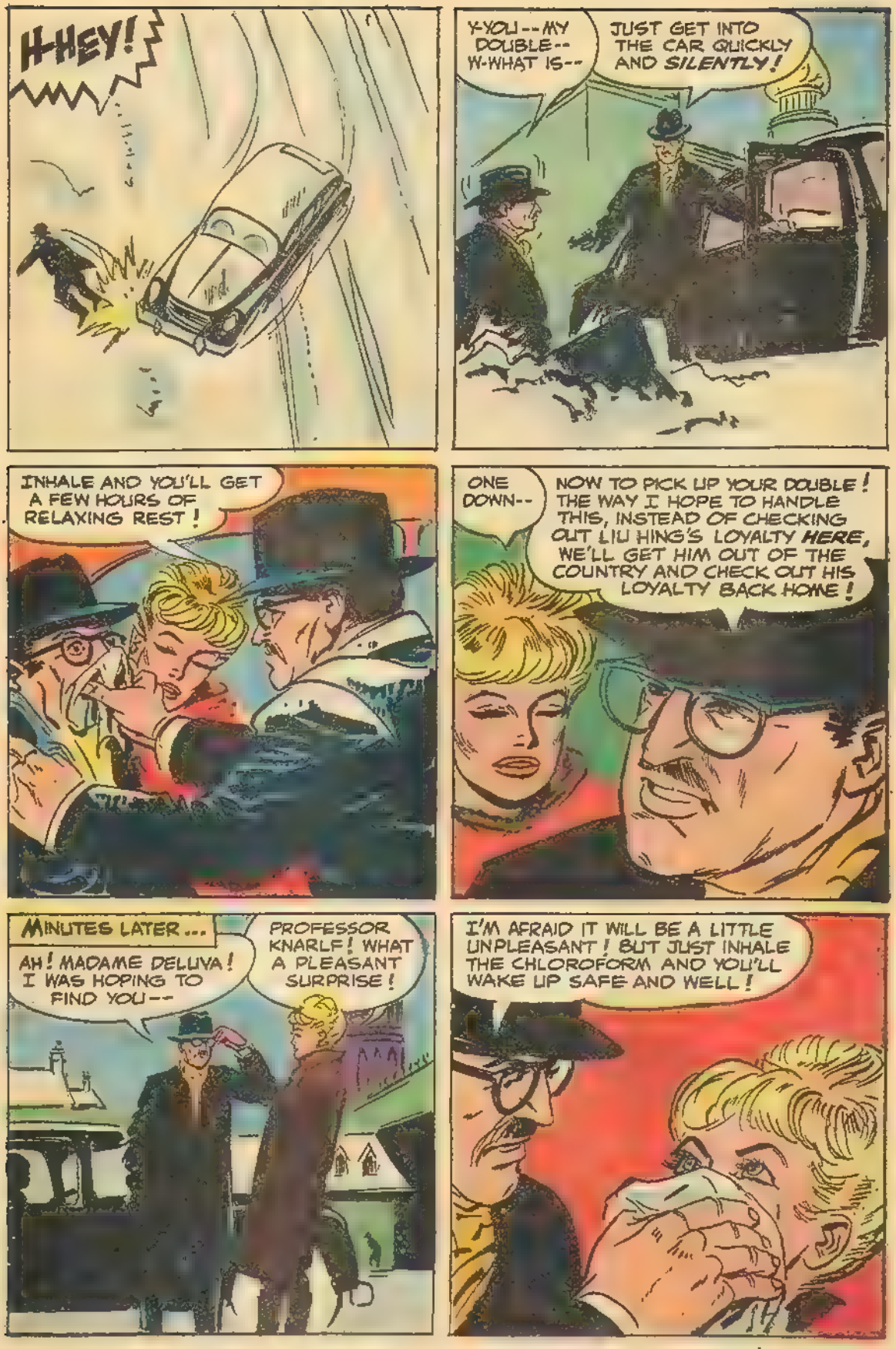
SAY, BRIGGS, THINK THEY'LL TELL US HOW THE SNAPSHOTS CAME OUT?
THE END

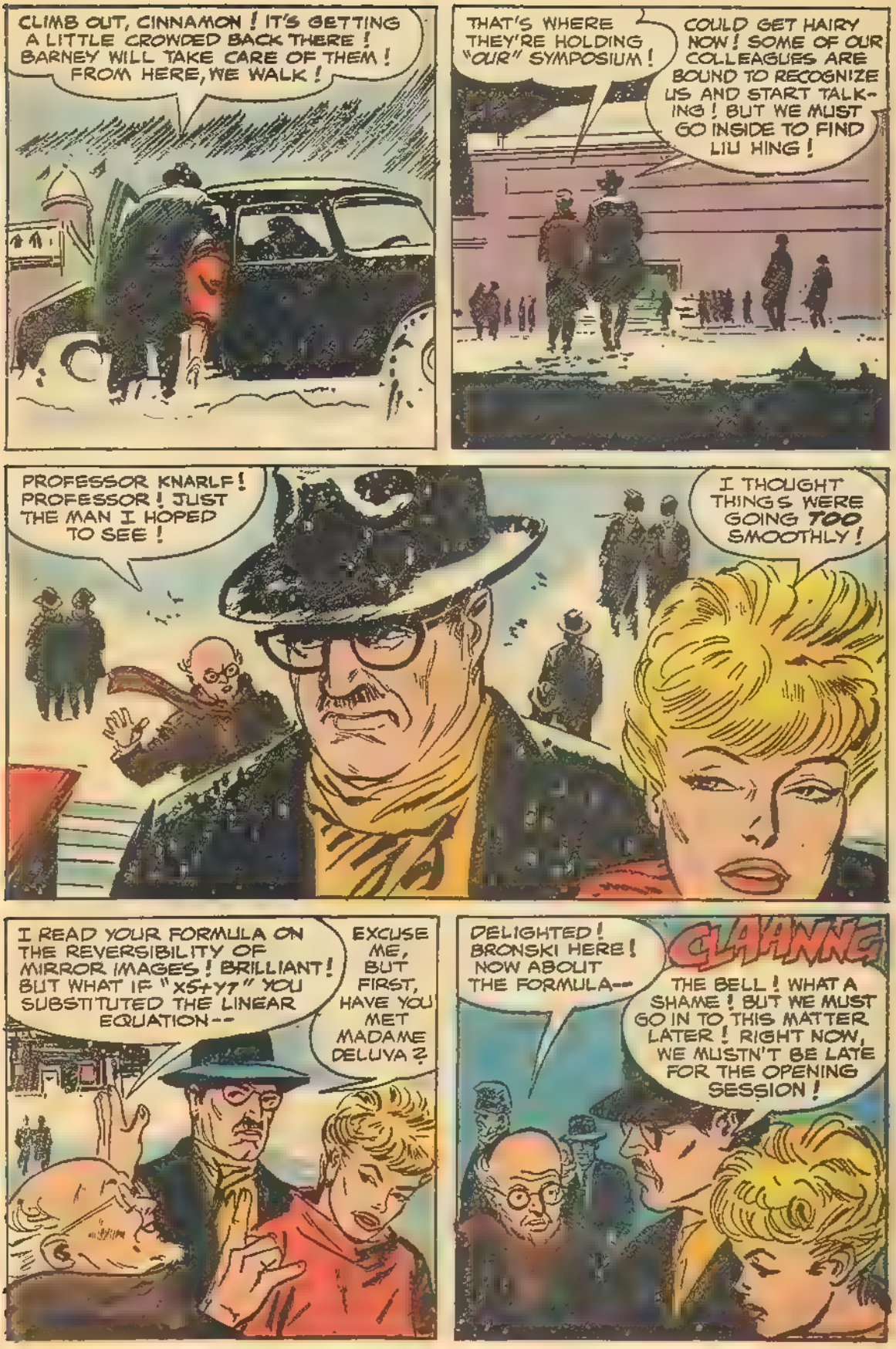

The DEADLY DEFECTOR!
AT THE PROJECTION ROOM OF MISSION IMPOSSIBLE FORCES, BRIGGS GETS A TOP SECRET BRIEFING...
THIS IS LIU HING, A LEADING RED CHINESE NUCLEAR PHYSICIST! HE IS THE NUMBER TWO MAN IN DEVELOPING THEIR ATOM BOMB! HE HAS NOW GIVEN US DIRECT WORD THAT HE WISHES TO DEFECT-- COME OVER TO OUR SIDE!
MISSION IMPOSSIBLE
AS PROOF OF GOOD FAITH, HE SMUGGLED OUT THIS PHOTO OF THE MOST RECENT CHINESE NUCLEAR EXPLOSION! HOWEVER, IT IS TOO BLURRY TO BE USEFUL! THE WHOLE IDEA MAY BE A TRAP WITH LIU HING ACTING AS BAIT!
THE ONLY CHANCE TO CONTACT AND TRY TO SMUGGLE HIM OUT FROM BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN WILL OCCUR WHEN HE ATTENDS A MIDDLE EUROPEAN NUCLEAR SYMPOSIUM NEXT WEEK!
IT WILL BE HELD AT WARGREB! YOU MUST CONTACT HING, CHECK HIS LOYALTY TO OUR SIDE AND IF CONVINCED-- BRING HIM OUT! WARGREB'S LOCATION MAKES ENTRY IMPOSSIBLE BY PLANE, SHIP OR SUB!
AGAIN, IT MAY BE A TRAP TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE WE ARE TRYING TO KIDNAP A NOTED PHYSICIST! THIS MISSION IS CONSIDERED IMPOSSIBLE! WE ARE RECORDING NOW... YOUR ANSWER... (BLEEP)--
THERE MAY BE ONE WAY OUT! I ACCEPT!

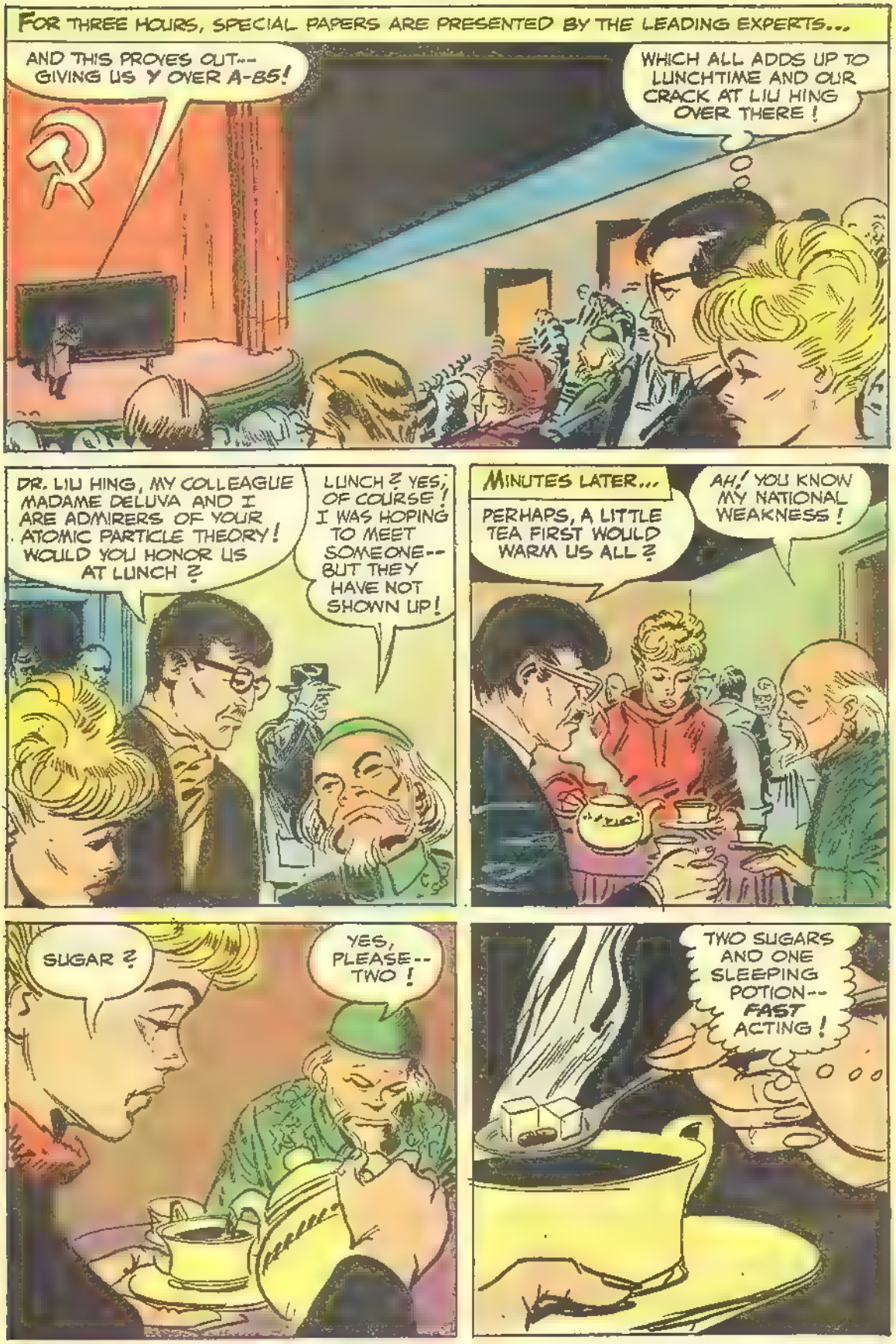
LATER, AT BRIGGS' APARTMENT...
I SEE THE PROBLEM AND IT'S A BEAUT, BRIGGS!
THE KEY MAN WE NEED IS A RAIL-ROAD ENGINEER! ANY LUCK, CINNAMON?
LET'S TRY CONRAD FULTON! FULLY QUALIFIED RAILROAD ENGINEER, TEN YEARS EXPERIENCE ON THE EUROPEAN RAIL NET SYSTEM!
NEXT DAY, AFTER EXCHANGING CODED CONTACT WORDS...
YOU SURE I CAN HELP?
CAN YOU HANDLE ANY ENGINE WE MIGHT FIND IN THE WARGREB REGION?
SHOULD BE A CINCH! DURING THE WAR, I WORKED THAT LINE TO SPEED UP OUR RELIEF SUPPLIES!
THEN HERE IS YOUR PLANE TICKET AND TOURIST PAPERS! WE FLY OUT TOMORROW!
I SEE THIS PLANE TICKET IS JUST ONE WAY!
THAT'S WHAT IT MAY BE, FULTON, A ONE WAY TICKET INTO A TRAP!

THE FOLLOWING DAY, WITH PERFECT TOURIST CREDENTIALS, FOUR MEMBERS OF THE MISSION IMPOSSIBLE FORCES FLY TO WARGREB...
WELL, WE GOT HERE--BUT THEN, GETTING OUT IS THE REAL PROBLEM!
THE FOLLOWING DAY, AS DELEGATES TO THE NUCLEAR SYMPOSIUM ARRIVE...
GET IT?
GOT ALL WE MAY NEED, CINNAMON! EXCEPT FOR ONE MORE SHOT!
MUST GET A SHOT OF THIS PASTRY SHOP FOR THE FOLKS BACK HOME!
AND THEN, YOU CAN BUY ME SOMETHING FULL OF WHIPPED CREAM--AND CALORIES!
SHE DIDN'T OBJECT!
WHY SHOULD SHE? DON'T WE LOOK INNOCENT ENOUGH?

LATER, IN A HOTEL ROOM...
WIDEN YOUR MOUTH JUST A TRIFLE MORE, CINNAMON AND YOU'VE GOT IT!
WELL?
PERFECT! YOU LOOK LIKE SIMONE DELUVA, ATOMIC REACTOR EXPERT AND SYMPOSIUM DELEGATE 103!
YOUR TURN, BRIGGS!
LUDWIG KNARLF MATCHES MY SIZE AND FACE-FORM CLOSEST, BUT HE COULD MEAN TROUBLE -- HE IS VERY WELL-KNOWN AND I HAVEN'T TIME TO STUDY HIS VOICE INFLECTIONS AND ACCENT!
AT LEAST, YOU TWO WILL LOOK LIKE THE DELEGATES!
THAT LEAVES THE REST UP TO FULTON AND YOU, BARNEY! LET'S GET GOING!
SOON...
STREET'S CLEAR EXCEPT FOR KNARLF! READY, BARNEY?
RIGHT, BRIGGS! BUT HERE GOES AN ACCIDENT-FREE DRIVING RECORD!

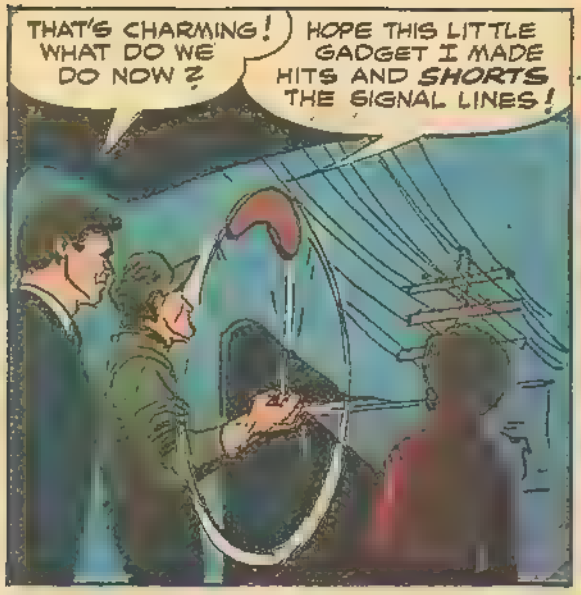

H-HEY!
Y-YOU--MY DOUBLE--W-WHAT IS--
JUST GET INTO THE CAR QUICKLY AND SILENTLY!
INHALE AND YOU'LL GET A FEW HOURS OF RELAXING REST!
ONE DOWN--
NOW TO PICK UP YOUR DOUBLE! THE WAY I HOPE TO HANDLE THIS, INSTEAD OF CHECKING OUT LIU HING'S LOYALTY HERE, WE'LL GET HIM OUT OF THE COUNTRY AND CHECK OUT HIS LOYALTY BACK HOME!
MINUTES LATER...
AH! MADAME DELUVA! I WAS HOPING TO FIND YOU--
PROFESSOR KNARLF! WHAT A PLEASANT SURPRISE!
I'M AFRAID IT WILL BE A LITTLE UNPLEASANT! BUT JUST INHALE THE CHLOROFORM AND YOU'LL WAKE UP SAFE AND WELL!

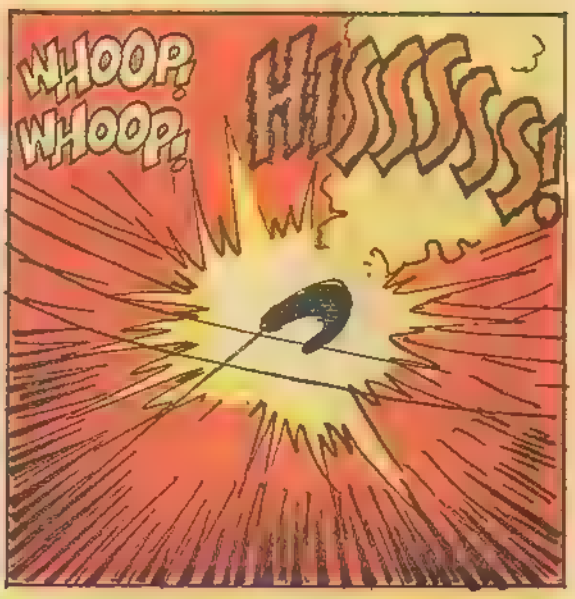

CLIMB OUT, CINNAMON! IT'S GETTING A LITTLE CROWDED BACK THERE! BARNEY WILL TAKE CARE OF THEM! FROM HERE, WE WALK!
THAT'S WHERE THEY'RE HOLDING "OUR" SYMPOSIUM!
COULD GET HAIRY NOW! SOME OF OUR COLLEAGUES ARE BOUND TO RECOGNIZE US AND START TALKING! BUT WE MUST GO INSIDE TO FIND LIU HING!
PROFESSOR KNARLF! PROFESSOR! JUST THE MAN I HOPED TO SEE!
I THOUGHT THINGS WERE GOING TOO SMOOTHLY!
I READ YOUR FORMULA ON THE REVERSIBILITY OF MIRROR IMAGES! BRILLIANT! BUT WHAT IF "X5+Y7" YOU SUBSTITUTED THE LINEAR EQUATION--
EXCUSE ME, BUT FIRST, HAVE YOU MET MADAME DELUYA?
DELIGHTED! BRONSKI HERE! NOW ABOUT THE FORMULA--
CLANNG
THE BELL! WHAT A SHAME! BUT WE MUST GO IN TO THIS MATTER LATER! RIGHT NOW, WE MUSTN'T BE LATE FOR THE OPENING SESSION!

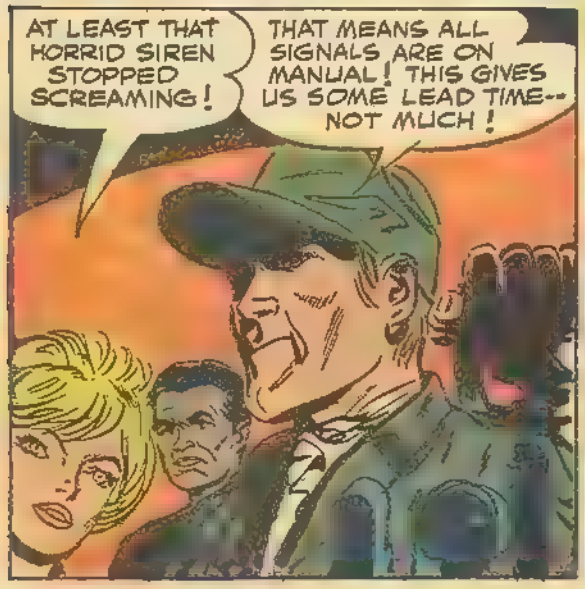

FOR THREE HOURS, SPECIAL PAPERS ARE PRESENTED BY THE LEADING EXPERTS...
AND THIS PROVES OUT-- GIVING US Y OVER A-B5!
WHICH ALL ADDS UP TO LUNCHTIME AND OUR CRACK AT LIU HING OVER THERE!
DR. LIU HING, MY COLLEAGUE MADAME DELUVA AND I ARE ADMIRERS OF YOUR ATOMIC PARTICLE THEORY! WOULD YOU HONOR US AT LUNCH?
LUNCH? YES, OF COURSE! I WAS HOPING TO MEET SOMEONE-- BUT THEY HAVE NOT SHOWN UP!
MINUTES LATER...
PERHAPS, A LITTLE TEA FIRST WOULD WARM US ALL?
AH! YOU KNOW MY NATIONAL WEAKNESS!
SUGAR?
YES, PLEASE-- TWO!
TWO SUGARS AND ONE SLEEPING POTION-- FAST ACTING!

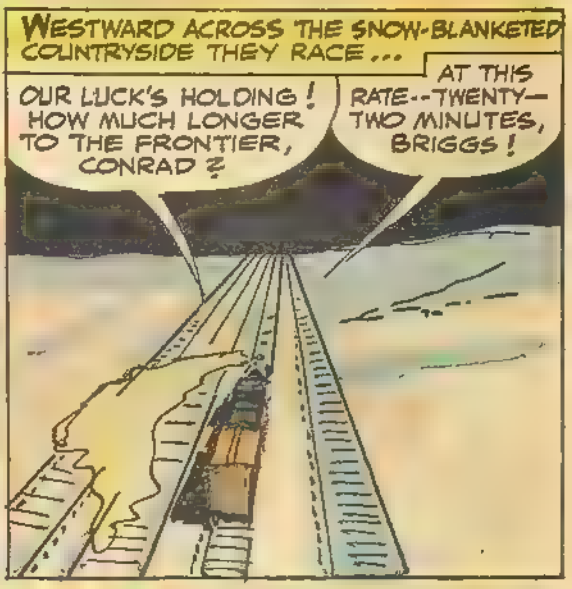
A FEW SIPS LATER...
STRANGE -- F-FEEL SUDDENLY-- DROWSY--
MUST BE THE AIR IN HERE! VERY STUFFY! PERHAPS, A LITTLE WALK OUT IN THE BRISK AIR WILL REVIVE YOU, COMRADE!
N-NO-- MUST BE-- SOMETHING ELSE--
WE WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU, DON'T WORRY!
GOT HIM?
RIGHT! NOW IT'S ALL UP TO CONRAD!
MINUTES LATER...
BRIGGS, DID YOU ASK WU HING IF HE WANTED TO COME?
NO, IF HE WANTED TO COME--HE'S COMING! IF HE DIDN'T AND HE WAS BAITING A TRAP, THIS WAY HE DIDN'T REALIZE WHO WE REALLY WERE SO THE TRAP WON'T BE SPRUNG--I HOPE!
HERE'S THE BABY WE NEEDED AND THAT FREIGHT CAR'S CARRYING JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED!
I ALWAYS PANIC WHEN THINGS GO THIS WELL. LET'S GET MOVING!

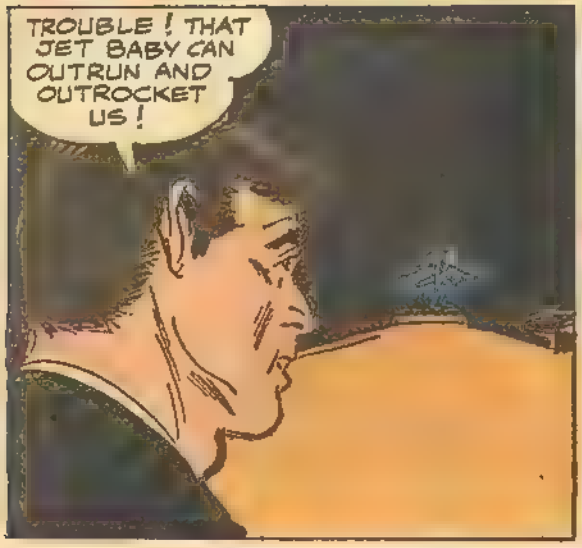
I WON'T TROUBLE HIM FOR HIS TICKET!
HOW'D YOU MANAGE TO STEAL THIS LITTLE JOB?
I KNOW MY TRADE AND THERE'S ALWAYS CONFUSION AT A MARSHALLING YARD--EITHER SIDE OF THE IRON CURTAIN! I ACTED AUTHORITATIVELY, MUTTERED ABOUT A SPECIAL SHIPMENT AND WE'RE READY TO ROLL!
WHOOOT!
DO YOU HAVE TO ANNOUNCE OUR DEPARTURE?
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEEDURE! WANT TO MAKE IT LOOK RIGHT, BRIGGS!
SNOW'S STOPPING! THAT'S A BAD BREAK!
KEEP DOWN! THE CONTROL TOWER MUST BE STUDYING US AS WE PASS!
CLANNNG! CLANNNG!
THEY'RE NOT STUPID AS I HOPED! THEY'RE SIGNALING US TO STOP!
WHOOP! WHOOP!
CONRAD, YOU JUST PASSED A RED LIGHT--
THAT'S WHAT SET OFF THE ALARMS, BRIGGS! NOW THEY CAN START THROWING SWITCHES UP THE LINE TO HALT US!


THAT'S CHARMING! WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
I HOPE THIS LITTLE GADGET I MADE HITS AND SHORTS THE SIGNAL LINES!

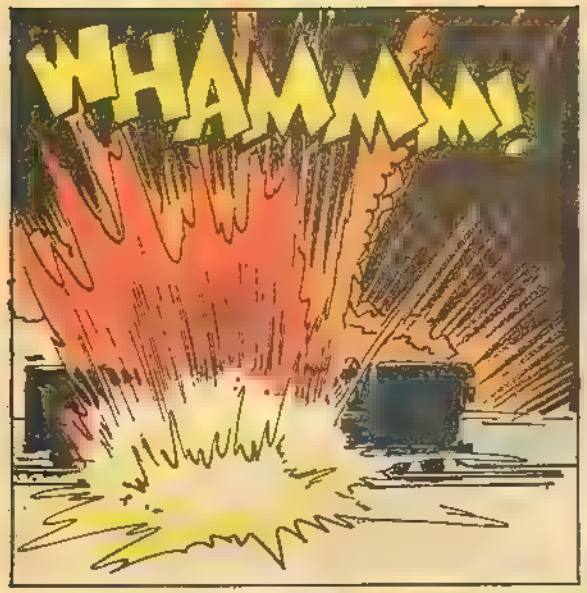

WHOOP WHOOP
HISSSSSS!

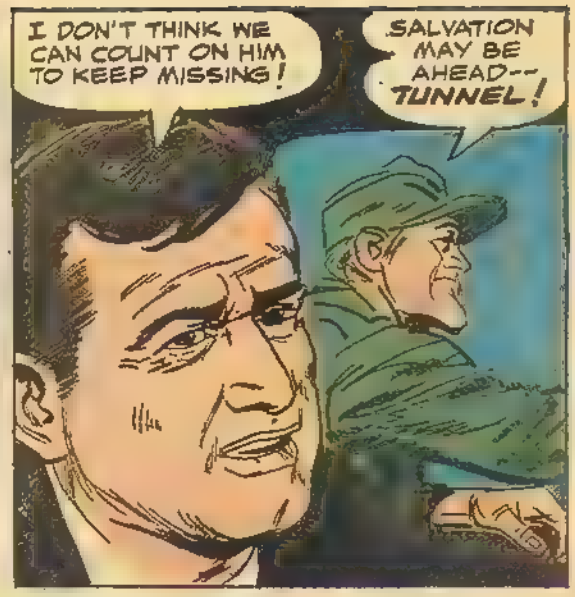

AT LEAST THAT HORRID SIREN STOPPED SCREAMING!
THAT MEANS ALL SIGNALS ARE ON MANUAL! THIS GIVES US SOME LEAD TIME--NOT MUCH!

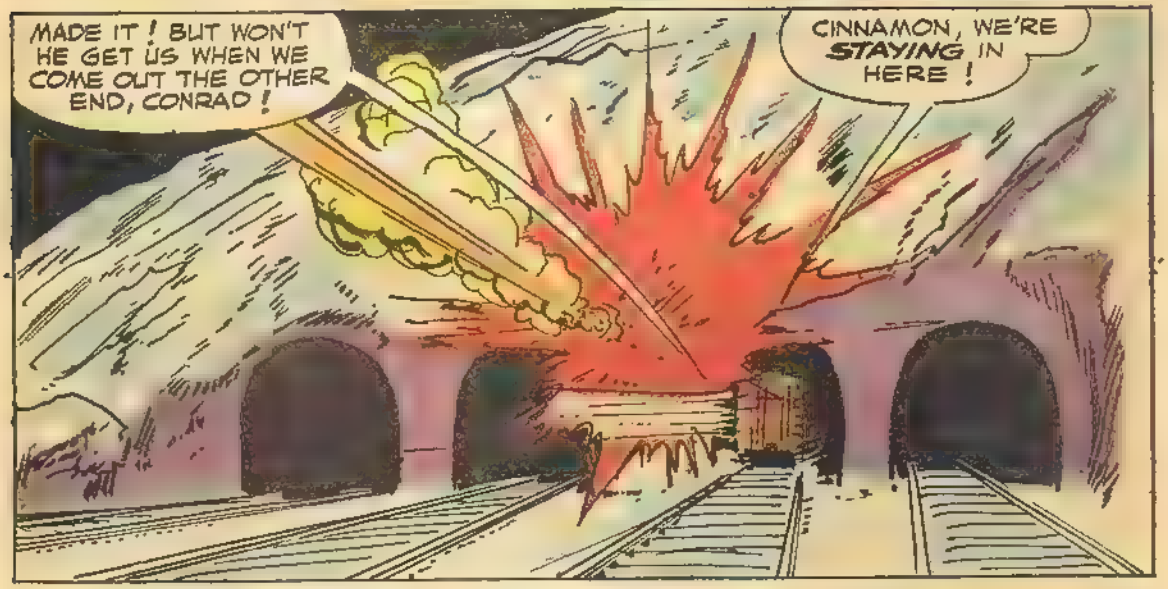

WESTWARD ACROSS THE SNOW-BLANKETED COUNTRYSIDE THEY RACE...
OUR LUCK'S HOLDING! HOW MUCH LONGER TO THE FRONTIER, CONRAD?
AT THIS RATE--TWENTY-TWO MINUTES, BRIGGS!

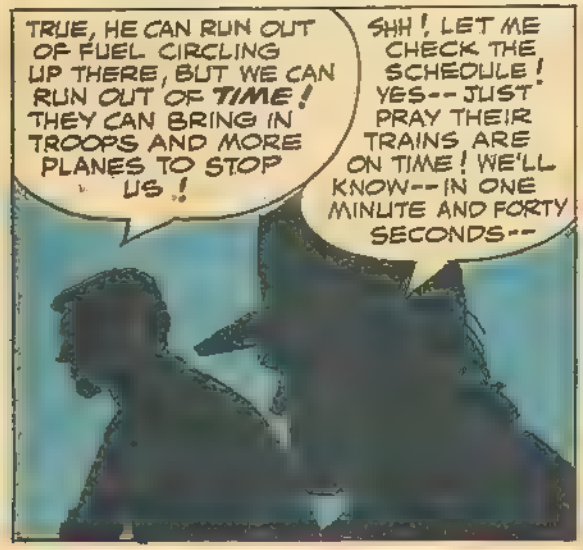

TROUBLE! THAT JET BABY CAN OUTRUN AND OUTROCKET US!

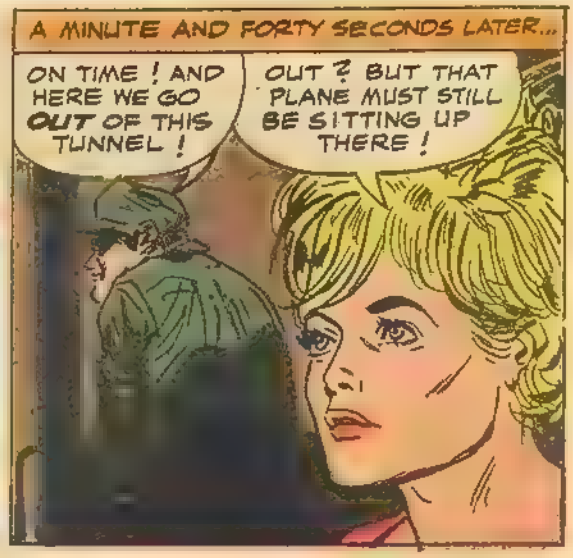
WHOOMPH!

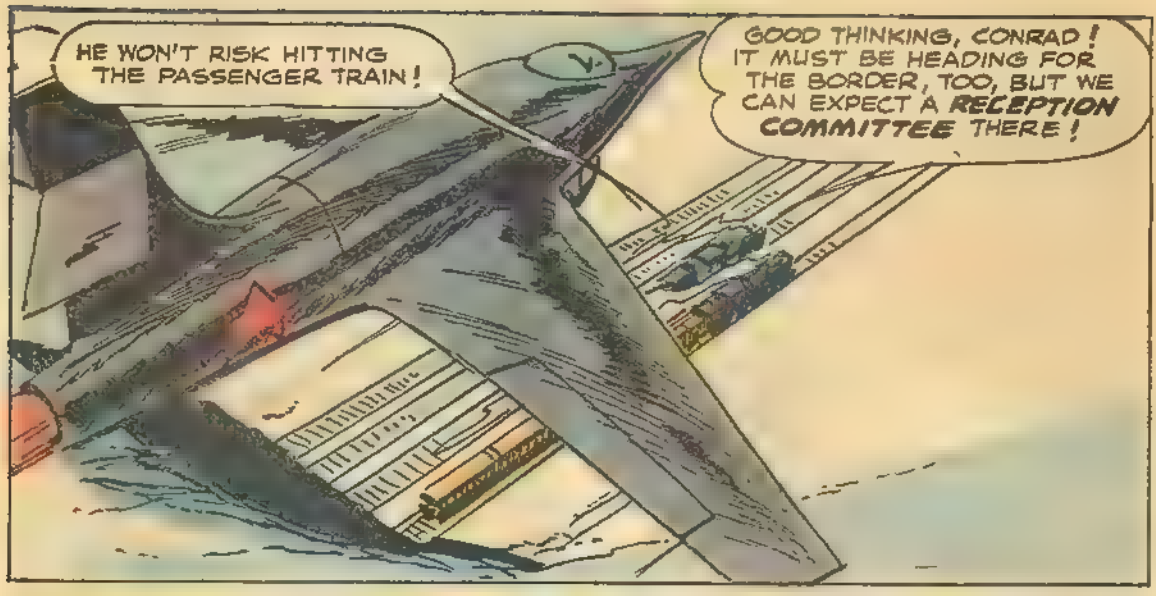

WHAMMM!

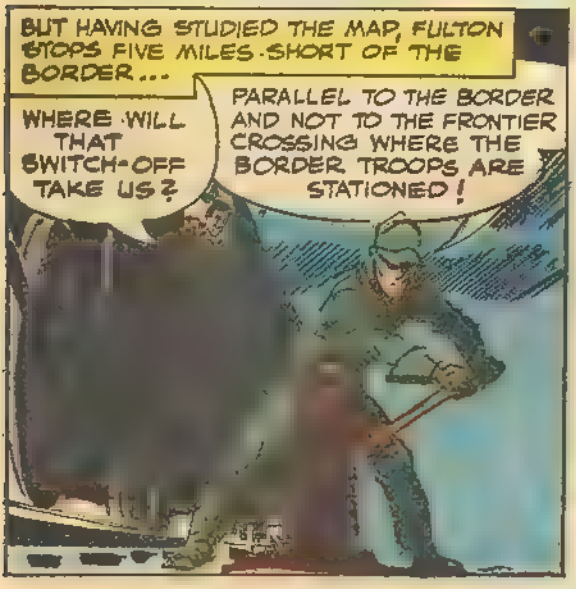

I DON'T THINK WE CAN COUNT ON HIM TO KEEP MISSING!
SALVATION MAY BE AHEAD-- TUNNEL!

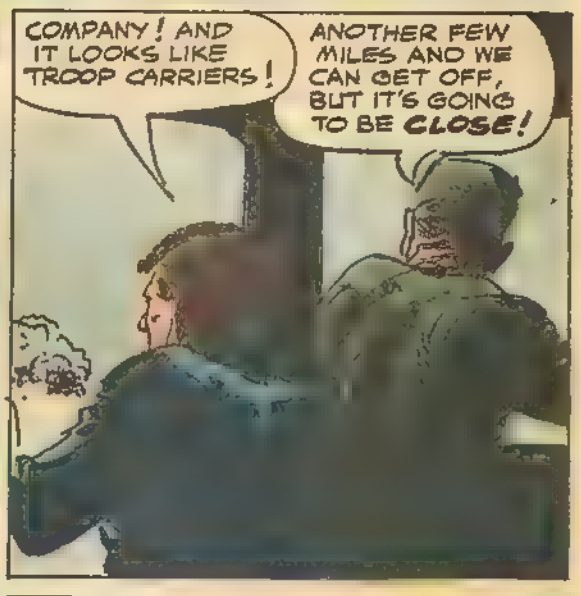

MADE IT! BUT WON'T HE GET US WHEN WE COME OUT THE OTHER END, CONRAD!
CINNAMON, WE'RE STAYING IN HERE!


TRUE, HE CAN RUN OUT OF FUEL CIRCLING UP THERE, BUT WE CAN RUN OUT OF TIME! THEY CAN BRING IN TROOPS AND MORE PLANES TO STOP US!
SHH! LET ME CHECK THE SCHEDULE! YES-- JUST PRAY THEIR TRAINS ARE ON TIME! WE'LL KNOW-- IN ONE MINUTE AND FORTY SECONDS--

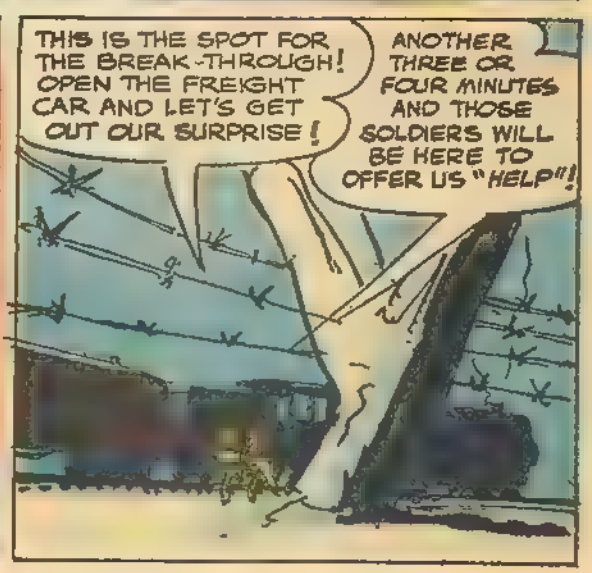

A MINUTE AND FORTY SECONDS LATER...
ON TIME! AND HERE WE GO OUT OF THIS TUNNEL!
OUT? BUT THAT PLANE MUST STILL BE SITTING UP THERE!

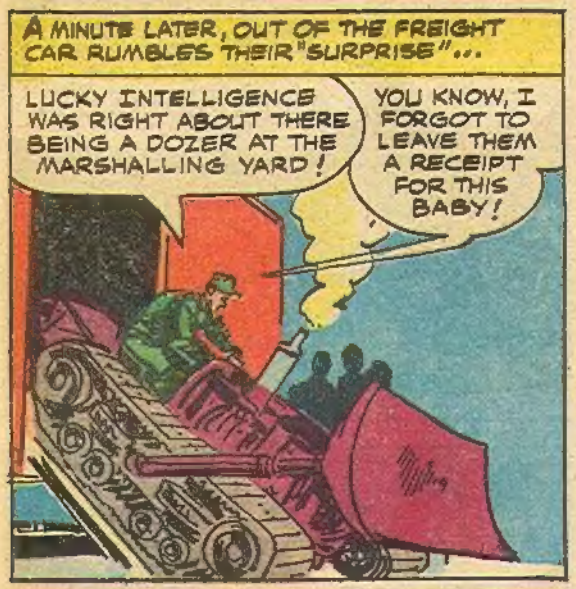

HE WON'T RISK HITTING THE PASSENGER TRAIN!
GOOD THINKING, CONRAD! IT MUST BE HEADING FOR THE BORDER, TOO, BUT WE CAN EXPECT A RECEPTION COMMITTEE THERE!

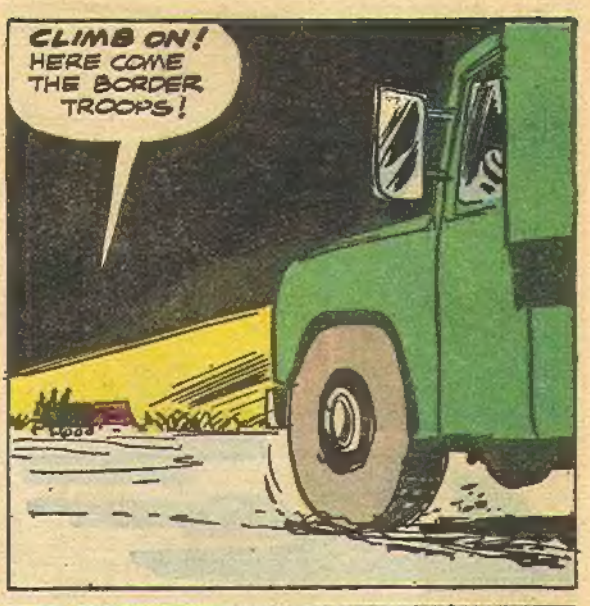

BUT HAVING STUDIED THE MAP, FULTON STOPS FIVE MILES SHORT OF THE BORDER...
WHERE WILL THAT SWITCH-OFF TAKE US?
PARALLEL TO THE BORDER AND NOT TO THE FRONTIER CROSSING WHERE THE BORDER TROOPS ARE STATIONED!

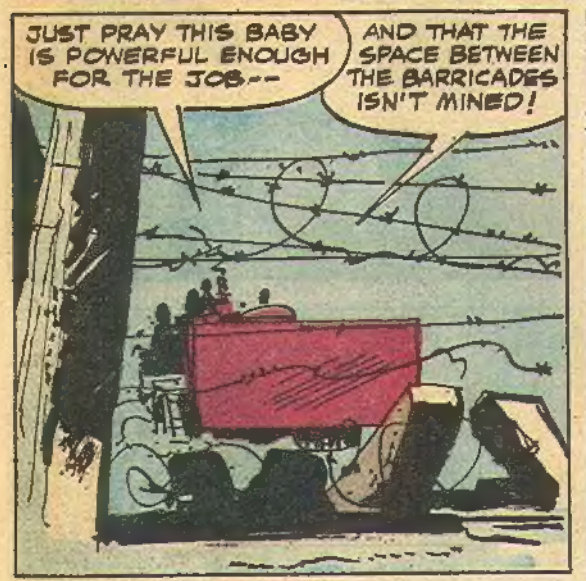

COMPANY! AND IT LOOKS LIKE TROOP CARRIERS!
ANOTHER FEW MILES AND WE CAN GET OFF, BUT IT'S GOING TO BE CLOSE!

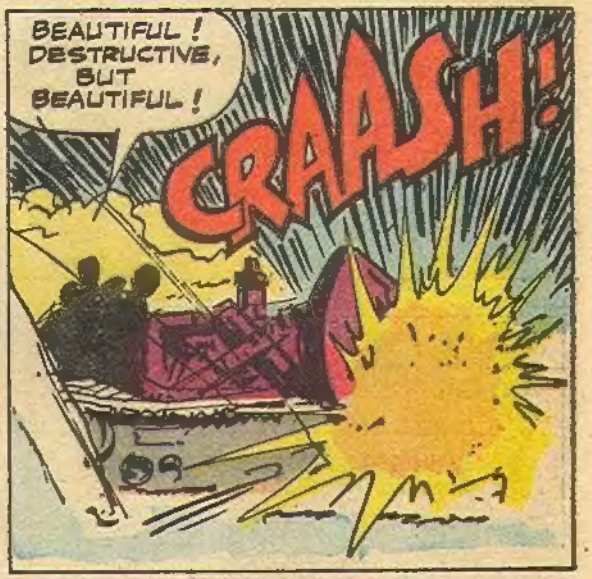
THEY SEEM TO BE GAINING!
YOU'RE RIGHT, CINNAMON! BUT CONRAD'S DOING ALL HE CAN!


THIS IS THE SPOT FOR THE BREAK-THROUGH! OPEN THE FREIGHT CAR AND LET'S GET OUT OUR SURPRISE!
ANOTHER THREE OR FOUR MINUTES AND THOSE SOLDIERS WILL BE HERE TO OFFER US "HELP"!


A MINUTE LATER, OUT OF THE FREIGHT CAR RUMBLES THEIR "SURPRISE"...
LUCKY INTELLIGENCE WAS RIGHT ABOUT THERE BEING A DOZER AT THE MARSHALLING YARD!
YOU KNOW, I FORGOT TO LEAVE THEM A RECEIPT FOR THIS BABY!

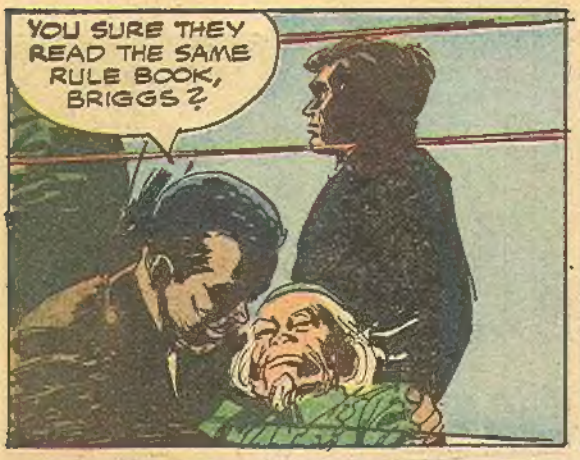

CLIMB ON! HERE COME THE BORDER TROOPS!

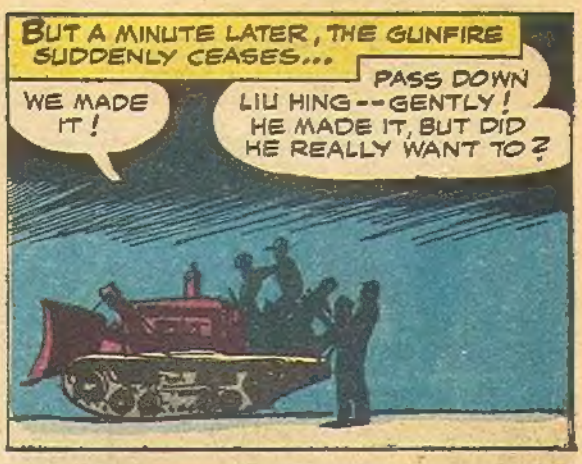

JUST PRAY THIS BABY IS POWERFUL ENOUGH FOR THE JOB--
AND THAT THE SPACE BETWEEN THE BARRICADES ISN'T MINED!

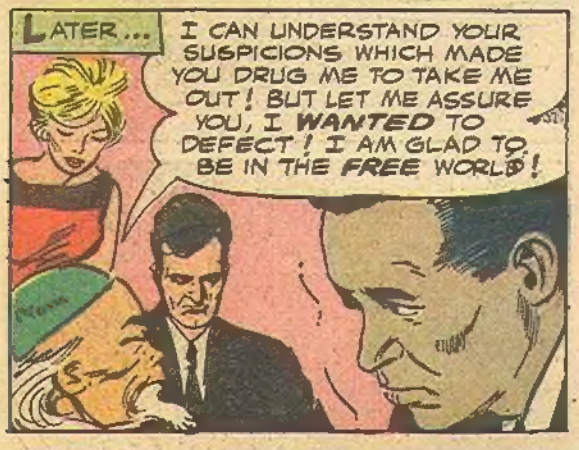

BEAUTIFUL! DESTRUCTIVE, BUT BEAUTIFUL!
CRAASH!

ZING! PING!
THEY'RE OPENING UP ON US!
HANG ON!

ZING!
LET'S SEE IF THIS DOZER BLADE WILL ACT AS A SHIELD!






LATER...
I CAN UNDERSTAND YOUR SUSPICIONS WHICH MADE YOU DRUG ME TO TAKE ME OUT! BUT LET ME ASSURE YOU, I WANTED TO DEFECT! I AM GLAD TO BE IN THE FREE WORLD!

THANK YOU! WHEN I FIRST DREAMED OF ESCAPING, I THOUGHT THE PROJECT WAS IMPOSSIBLE!
FUNNY, THAT'S A WORD WE DON'T UNDER-STAND!
THE END

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1.

2.

3.

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